

LIBERTY BELL

IN CHARLESTON

Greeted in South Carolina Capital by a Great Outpouring.

NEGROES WERE DISAPPOINTED

They Expected to Hear the Bell Ring When it Was Moved from the Train and Could Not Understand its Silence.

(By Associated Press.)

CHARLESTON, S. C., Jan. 9.—Liberty Bell Day was celebrated with all the honors. The city schools and many of the stores were closed, and citizens observed it as a general holiday. The weather was ideal, and not since the opening day has there been so splendid an outpouring at the exposition.

The colonial chimera from the belfry of St. Michael's pealed merry welcome to the historical bell from Philadelphia. The Lafayette Artillery fired a salute of thirteen guns. The bell, with its escort, Mayor Ashbridge and the Common Council of Philadelphia, arrived at 10 o'clock on the handsomest special train that has ever come to Charleston.

NEGROES DISAPPOINTED.

Thousands crowded the station as the train rolled in. Among them were hundreds of colored people, who stood about the car bearing the bell with wide-open eyes and ears. When the bell was removed from the car to the truck they expected it to ring, but they were doomed to disappointment.

The route of the procession lay through Calhoun, Meeting and Rutledge avenues to the Ivory City. The military escort included the First Artillery Band, the Garrison, on Sullivan's Island, United States marines from Camp Heywood, Citadel and Porter cadets, dragoon corps, Irish Volunteers, Washington Light Infantry, Sam Houston Guards, hospital corps, German Fusiliers, truck, German Artillery followed by the carriage division.

When the parade reached the grounds the bell had already arrived, and as quickly as possible it was removed to the Philadelphia building. A salute of thirteen guns was fired by the German Artillery.

FORMAL EXERCISES.

The formal exercises were held in the Auditorium, which was crowded to the utmost. After prayer by the Rev. Dr. A. Toomer Porter, "My Country, 'Tis of Thee" was sung by 5,000 school children. Then came an address of welcome by Captain F. W. Wagner, president of the Exposition, who spoke briefly, but most appropriately. Mayor Smythe, of Charleston, followed, enthusiastically hailing the presence of the bell as a proof of good will between "these two great Commonwealths—Pennsylvania and South Carolina—and these two cities—Philadelphia and Charleston."

Mayor Ashbridge, of Philadelphia, responded in like vein, and was applauded to the echo. Other addresses were made by Hon. J. F. Ficken, Hon. George McCurdy, president of the Philadelphia Common Council, and Mr. F. E. Havens, a collateral descendant of Edward Rutledge, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Mr. McCurdy's speech was eloquent and inspiring, and was long and loudly applauded. The exercises closed with the singing of "The Star Spangled Banner" by the school children, an address by Hon. Henry Clay, of the Select Council of Philadelphia, and chairman of the Committee on Exhibits in the Philadelphia building, and "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow," sung by school children and audience, with grand organ and military band accompaniment.

Scott-Pitts.

(Special Dispatch to The Times.)

EASTVILLE, VA., Jan. 9.—Dr. Peter F. Scott, a druggist of Franktown, and his wife, Mrs. Pitts, were quietly married at the bride's home yesterday. This is the fourth marriage of Dr. Scott and the second of Mrs. Scott.

LABOR LEADERS.

Notable Gathering of Them Lunched With the President.

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 9.—The President had with him at luncheon today the Attorney-General, the Secretary of Agriculture, and a notable gathering of representatives of organized labor. There were F. P. Sargent, chief of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen; E. E. Clark, general conductor of the Brotherhood of Railway Conductors; P. H. Morrison, grand master of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen; H. B. Parham, president of the Order of Railway Telegraphers, and A. B. Youngson, first assistant to P. M. Arthur, president of the Locomotive Engineers.

MISS ESREY'S HOME BURNED.

The Family Residence in Chester, Pa., Destroyed by Fire.

The home of Miss Margaret Esrey in Chester, Pa., was destroyed by fire a few nights ago.

According to the news received here the house was a total loss, and the household effects only the silverware was saved. The family were not living at the home at the time, but were in Philadelphia spending the winter.

Miss Esrey is well known in Richmond, having made many friends in the city during her visits here in the last two years. She was a favorite among the ladies riding at the Horse Show last fall, and when in Virginia is usually found following the hounds of the Deep Run Hunt Club.

AT THE RETREAT.

Steam-heating Apparatus Being Put in the Hospital.

At the Retreat for the Sick there is being installed a complete steam heating apparatus, which will make the building in every way comfortable and fit a long felt need. The hospital is more or less torn up with the repairs, but within the next two weeks will again be free from carpenters and plumbers and ready to begin work under improved conditions.

The new operating room will be opened at an early date, and other improvements and fixtures will be ready for use.

DEATHS.

RUSSELL.—Died, at the residence of W. W. Russell, No. 1507 Grove Avenue, at 1:30 p. m., Jan. 9, Mrs. BERTHA W. RUSSELL, only child of B. W. and Nellie O. Russell, aged five months and sixteen days.

Funeral from the above residence TODAY (Friday), January 10th, at 4 p. m. Friends and acquaintances of the family are respectfully invited to attend.

WOODALL.—Died, at the residence of her son, Mr. W. W. Woodall, at 8:30 p. m., Thursday, January 9, 1902, Mrs. HARRIET A. WOODALL, in the forty-seventh year of her age.

Funeral from West View Baptist Church TO-DAY (Friday) at 8 p. m. Friends and acquaintances invited.

AN EXTRADITION

FOR JOHN BYRD

A Deputy Sheriff Coming to Carry Him Back.

NORTH CAROLINA HISTORY

All the Books Purchased for the State Library During the Year Were Written by Natives of the State—Investigation by Isaac Asylum Board.

(Special Dispatch to The Times.)

RALPH, N. C., Jan. 9.—The Governor today issued a requisition on the governor of Virginia for John Byrd, who is wanted here for bigamy. He left Raleigh for Richmond, Va., four months ago, and is now under arrest there. It has developed that he has two wives in this State, his last being Emma Lee, of this city.

The first wife was Sallie Hunt Byrd, of Panther Branch. A deputy sheriff left today for Richmond to bring the much-married man back to Raleigh.

AN INVESTIGATION.

The Executive Committee of the Central Hospital for the Insane in this city met this morning to investigate the condition of the institution. They report that the hospital is taxed beyond its capacity, and that there are over one hundred applications of an urgent character on file. An extensive addition to the buildings, they say, is an imperative necessity. Eleven patients were dismissed as cured during the past month.

The annual report of the State Librarian to Governor Aycock shows that special attention is being given now to the accumulation of books and pamphlets written about North Carolina, or by North Carolinians. All books purchased during the past year have been of this character. There were 375 volumes added during that period.

A LARGE VENUE.

A special jury of 100 men is being summoned from which to select a jury to try Henry Perry next Monday in Wake Superior Court, for the capital offense of criminal assault upon his own daughter. The victim and her grandmother are the principal witnesses for the prosecution.

BANKRUPTCY.

An involuntary petition in bankruptcy was filed in the District Court here yesterday against S. Copton, who conducts a big department store in Durham. The assets are \$12,000 and the liabilities \$25,000.

OBITUARY.

Mrs. Harriet A. Woodall.

Mrs. Harriet A. Woodall died at 3:30 p. m. yesterday at the residence of her son, Mr. E. Frank Woodall, No. 175 Floyd Avenue. She had been in failing health for some time.

Mrs. Woodall was before her marriage Miss Harriet Williams, of Washington. Her father was a well known manufacturer of that city.

Five children survive her, as follows: Messrs. George W. R. Clifford, E. Frank, N. Barry and Zach E. Woodall and Miss Alma Woodall.

The funeral will take place from the West View Baptist Church at 3 p. m. today.

Mrs. M. G. Luckhard.

Mrs. M. G. Luckhard died Wednesday morning at the home of Mrs. L. A. Guthrie, No. 1308 West Cary Street. Mrs. Luckhard was 77 years of age, and was a most estimable woman. The funeral will take place today from the Methodist Church, King William county.

Funeral Services.

The funeral of Mr. W. N. Thompson, who was killed in the accident near Lynchburg on the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway, took place in Raleigh, N. C., yesterday morning. The family of the deceased, his wife, daughter, Miss Rowena Thompson, and son, Cecil Thompson, were present at the service.

W. A. Short.

(Special Dispatch to The Times.)

LAWRENCEVILLE, VA., Jan. 9.—William Mallory Short died at his home near Zingara, in this county, yesterday. He was a prominent and respected citizen in his fifty-fifth year. Mr. Short had been in bad health for the past few years, yet his death comes as a shock to his family and friends.

As a boy, he entered the Confederate army and served with distinction as a lieutenant during the last year of the Civil War.

After the war he was associated for many years in the mercantile business at Smith's Ordinary, with the late Dr. G. M. Ranney, whose daughter he married.

Born of distinguished Democratic ancestry, he was always a Democrat, and was prominent in the councils of the party in State, county and district matters, and was a member of the Electoral Board of the county at the time of his death.

He was an affectionate father, a true and faithful husband, a zealous and staunch friend, a loving son and a citizen without reproach. He leaves a widow and several children. His good gray head, his genial and affectionate nature, his courteous hospitality and his many virtues will long be held in gentle remembrance by his numerous relatives and friends.

James Lane Green.

(Special Dispatch to The Times.)

FREDERICKSBURG, VA., Jan. 9.—Mr. James Lane Green, a prominent citizen, died at his home here this afternoon, after a lingering illness of 72 years. He is survived by a widow, whose name was Anna Page Whittemore, daughter of the late John M. Whittemore, and five children, Messrs. Duff, Charles, John M. and F. W. Green, and Miss Mary Green, all of this city. Two brothers, Messrs. Alexander and Charles Green, and one sister, Mrs. Dr. L. A. Ashton, all three of Dallas, Texas, also survive him.

Miss Rebecca Luckett.

(Special Dispatch to The Times.)

LEESBURG, VA., Jan. 9.—Miss Rebecca Luckett died quite suddenly of pneumonia at the home of Mr. J. T. McGavack Tuesday morning. She was a member of the Presbyterian Church, and was the wife of Mr. W. H. Luckett, of Goresville, this county, and a daughter of the late Samuel Luckett, for many years sheriff of the county, had gone to Mr. McGavack's on a visit when she was taken ill. She was a member of the Presbyterian Church. Her funeral took place from Mr. McGavack's residence today, the Rev. E. L. Wilson officiating.

Thomas Slater.

(Special Dispatch to The Times.)

NEWPORT NEWS, VA., Jan. 9.—Mr. Thomas Slater, one of the oldest and best known residents of Hampton, died this afternoon shortly after 1 o'clock at the home of his step-son, Attorney Pay S. Collier, aged 72 years.

He leaves a wife, three children and four step-children. He was born in Hampton and lived there all his life. He was a Confederate veteran, having served through the war with distinction. After the war he engaged in the mercantile business, and only retired several years ago.

MR. CABELL

CHOSEN PRESIDENT

(Continued From First Page.)

of most happy surroundings, and while the chief magistrate was engaged in the gracious occupation of shaking hands with the multitude of citizens there assembled. The country was thrown into profound grief not only at the horrible act, but also because the President, by his amiable disposition and conservative actions, had endeared himself to every citizen of this great nation. But while every heart was touched with sympathy, yet even so dreadful a crime had no disastrous consequences to business interests, thus giving the strongest evidence of the unimpaired position and the inherent strength of this Government.

In this triumphant march of progress and material prosperity Richmond has kept pace, and every citizen must acknowledge, of he be the least observing, that never before in the history of this city has its future been so bright as it is to-day. It almost seems that our vision may be at fault when we stop on our business streets for a few moments and see the vast throng of people hurrying here and there, busily occupied, and especially at twilight hour, when we find the army of tourists, the people who make a city, wending their way to their homes, from the office, the workshop and the factory, either on the cars or on foot.

The charge that has come has been so great as compared with a few short years ago, that we might well believe it is a dream. But no, it is a reality, ours is a busy community, and the city of Richmond has reached a point where it may be truly classed as one of the metropolitan cities of this country. In the past few years, the city has witnessed the increase of our industrial and commercial importance, it is our pride that we can assert that the Chamber of Commerce has indeed been a great factor in bringing about the present healthy and progressive condition.

EXTENSION OF CORPORATE LIMITS.

In my last annual report I referred to the small increase in our population, as shown by the returns of the census enumerators, and the consequent agitation for an extension of our corporate limits, so that the suburbs of the city, which numbers about one-sixth of that of Richmond, should be embraced within the city, where it properly belongs. I also advised you that at an early date there would be held a public meeting by the Chamber of Commerce, for the purpose of discussing by representative citizens. Such a meeting was held in this hall on February 12th. It was well attended, and the speakers on both sides were listened to with careful attention. Like all measures involving a change, it was subject to considerable discussion. The facts brought out during the discussion demonstrated that the city had not done its part towards the property owners in what is known as "Lee District." But the wisdom of holding our meeting has been made manifest by the action taken almost immediately after our meeting, and to-day we find a large number of handsome residences being erected in what was waste ground twelve months ago. It proves beyond a doubt that a meeting for the public mind, relating to our interests as a community invariably brings forth good results. There is no place where such full and free discussions can be held except the Chamber of Commerce.

The question of extending our corporate limits has now been taken up by the City Council, which will, during this session of the Legislature, endeavor to obtain the passage of an enabling act to carry out this measure. It is said, however, that the majority of our fellow-citizens residing in the county are opposed to the project, and the gentlemen who represented that view at our meeting, and whose ability and sincerity of purpose no one can or will question, advanced very strong reasons why our city desires to be left alone. The main ground of opposition, however, lies in the fact that the city had not done its part for the territory it had acquired, hence, judging the future by the past, they assumed the county had everything to lose and nothing to gain by being annexed to the city. It is indeed, but if the policy of the City Government has been what it should be there is no reason why a change cannot and should not be made. I am in favor of "Greater Richmond," but I want it attained upon a just and equitable basis.

After active correspondence with the Census Office, and with the assistance of Hon. John Lamb, I have succeeded in securing "a preliminary statement, regarding the manufacturing industries of the State of Virginia, and the cities of Norfolk, Petersburg, Richmond, and Roanoke."

Our enterprising papers have already obtained the figures in this statement and made reference to them. A brief allusion, however, on my part will not be out of place as showing the magnitude and importance of Richmond as a manufacturing center.

While the three other cities named have in the aggregate a number of industries about 3-1-2 per cent. in excess of the number of Richmond industries, those of Richmond have 67-1-2 per cent. greater amount of capital employed, 42-3-4 per cent. larger number of wage-earners, pay 3-1-2 per cent. more wages and turn out products valued at about 34 per cent. more than the industries of the other three cities combined. But the above figures for this city's industries include only those within its corporate limits, while a great number are just beyond those limits, including some of the largest, such as the Locomotive Works, the Pottery Works, the Cedar Works, etc., but without exception nearly all are owned and controlled by citizens of Richmond, and for all purposes are practically Richmond industries. If it be assumed as is believed to be true, that most of Petersburg's industries are within its corporate limits, that Norfolk, in the recent extension of its corporate limits included most of its industries, and that Roanoke, a comparatively new city, was laid out in such generous proportions as to accommodate the industries there, and we take the figures from "papers of January 1st, which include the statistics just obtained of Richmond, we find the statement radically changed.

On the matter one above. Upon that view of the case, Richmond has a larger number of industries by 78 per cent., a greater amount of capital utilized by 92-1-2 per cent., more wage-earners employed by 133 per cent., and an excess value of output by 169 per cent., over the three cities combined. Indeed, it employs 33-1-2 per cent. of the wage-earners, and turns out 42 per cent. of the manufactured products of the entire State of Virginia. Assembled, then, stronger or more emphatic argument be presented for a wise and well concerted movement for the extension of the city's corporate limits?

MANUFACTURES AND JOBBING.

The Locomotive Works and the W. R. Trigg Company have been kept very busy. The latter company has been at work during the entire year enlarging its facilities.

The Virginia Electric Railway and Development Company turned on its electric current, and is now furnishing motive power to many enterprises. All other manufacturing establishments are working to the limit of their capacity and are doing a healthy business.

I beg to call your attention to the increase in the amount of our manufactures. The sum of \$5,588,105, an increase in 1901 over the previous year of \$7,696,241. Our jobbing trade also shows a gratifying improvement, for the same period, the amount of sales being \$4,375,000 or \$2,738,596 over the previous year. These wholesale figures, with the addition of retail sales, by a close estimate, placed at about \$14,000,000, indicate a business for the year under review of some \$111,332,105, with possibly some unclassified lines of business omitted.

OUR BANKING INTERESTS.

The financial institutions of Richmond, whose operation is a sure reflex of other business transactions, have to such an extent increased as to afford confirmation of the marked improvement indicated above. Our bank clearings for the year 1901 reached the unprecedented sum of \$198,091,536, or \$23,800,000 over the year 1900. This is a most gratifying fact, and it is a fact which we should all be proud to have in our midst. It is a fact which we should all be proud to have in our midst.

During the year many large and imposing buildings have been erected, one of which is the Mechanics' Institute. Too much cannot be said of the unselfish devotion of the managers of this noble institution, who, by their efforts, have succeeded in having a building erected commensurate with its ever-increasing needs.

They have been ably seconded in their efforts by a corps of instructors devoted to their duties and who rejoice to see the great good wrought by their work. Hundreds of boys are being trained, and they will earn their bread before they could receive a complete education, have been enabled to acquire knowledge whereby they can reach the highest positions in the mechanical departments of great manufacturing establishments.

The American Cigar Company, a corporation organized at the site of the warehouse recently destroyed by fire and the adjoining lots, their building will now cover an entire square.

Murphy's Hotel has been enlarged by the erection of a six-story building on the opposite corner, doubling the original accommodation. The new building is now under construction, and the completion is the Virginia and Carolina Chemical Company's office building, the power building erected by the Richmond Industrial Company, something new in this section, and which has for its purpose the letting of power to a number of small buildings and whose expenses will thus be materially reduced.

In addition to these there have been and are now being erected throughout the city many new residences—in fact, the building trade has been and is taxed to its utmost capacity to carry out contracts.

THE CARNEGIE LIBRARY.

Early in the year we were informed that through correspondence had by our fellow-citizen, Mr. Robert Whitte, Sr., with the great philanthropist, Mr. Andrew Carnegie, the latter gentleman had agreed to donate to the city a new public library, provided certain conditions were complied with. The Board of Directors of the Chamber after thorough discussion, endorsed the movement, and the City Council decided to comply with the conditions, and we may soon hope to see the building erected, and the library opened to the benefit of the necessities of a progressive community.

OUR NEW DEPOT.

This imposing building, jointly erected by the Chesapeake and Ohio and the Seaboard Air Line, is now occupied by the companies and the public has commenced to use it. It is a most beautiful building, and the improvements made by these companies in the terminal facilities, and the viaduct along the river front, on which millions have been spent, is a revelation to all and ought forever to silence chronic grumblers who never can or will realize that the city is growing, and that the city is growing.

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IMPROVEMENT OF JAMES RIVER.

In my last report I made mention of the visit to this city by the River and Harbor Committee of Congress, and to the prospect that our long cherished hope with respect to this important work would at last be realized. Unfortunately for this and many other communities throughout the land, the River and Harbor bill pending before Congress at its last session, failed of passage, and therefore we have to wait for the fruition of our hopes upon this matter.

But we are encouraged that before another twelve months we shall have achieved what we have so long and patiently been laboring for.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

One of the events in the history of this Commonwealth was the assembling of the Constitutional Convention in June last for the purpose of framing a new Constitution. The people had determined to elect representative citizens for this work. Indeed, it is a notable gathering of men seldom equaled as a body. Naturally a change of the organic law must be of the greatest importance to our community, and the change should be in conjunction with similar bodies through out the State, endeavoring to bring to the attention of the convention necessary measures for the protection of those interests.

We asked for relief under the Homestead Emulsion, and for the purpose of the regulation of common carriers.

Mr. Jackson was recommended after a special meeting of the Chamber had been held, at which the measures were ably discussed, and both sides were heard.

We tendered the courtesies of the Chamber to the members of the Convention and also a complimentary excursion down the historic James river as far as Dutch Gap, which was participated in and enjoyed by many of its members.

CARNIVAL AND STREET FAIR.

This novel entertainment which was successfully conducted in 1900, was repeated during the second week in October of the past year. It brought an immense crowd of people to this city, who thoroughly enjoyed the entire week, and the fair was closed on a high note. No accident or fire occurred to mar the pleasure of our guests. At the same time there was held the horse-show, conducted by the "Richmond Horse-Show Association," which was also an unqualified success. The Carnival Association, under the management of the Street Fair, has held, deserves the highest praise and commendation for their untiring labors and good management. Whether or not the Street Fair will be succeeded by some other form of entertainment, it is certain we have never seen a more energetic and unselfish body of men engaged in the attempt to give to the people of this city a fair and enjoyable time.

The Chamber again had a booth on Broad Street, where strangers were made welcome, and pamphlets descriptive of Richmond and its business were freely distributed.

THE CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION.

In the year 1907 will occur the three hundredth anniversary of the settlement of Jamestown, and of course such an historic event, which concerns the people of the entire civilized world, should be properly commemorated. Our Committee on Expositions has accordingly submitted considerable thought, and when his Excellency, the Governor, issued his proclamation on November 19th, calling upon the various cities and commercial bodies in this Commonwealth to offer to the Legislature suggestions as to the form the celebration should take, we have at once appointed a select committee, which, together with our standing Committee on Expositions, was requested to consider this matter and report in conformity with the proclamation of the Governor.

The committee went actively to work, and through the magnitude of the propositions such an undertaking would assume, they proceeded with due caution to consider the question in all of its relations. To our surprise there was introduced both in the Senate and House of Delegates on the last day of the session, a bill for the purpose of chartering a corporation to incorporate the Jamestown Exposition Company, which was to be invested with the exclusive privilege for the holding of an exposition in 1907, and containing other provisions whereby the people located on Hampton Roads and the city would have a permanent and exclusive control, thereby depriving all of the rest of the people of Virginia from taking a proper part in managing this great enterprise. A special meeting of the Chamber was convened, at which resolutions were adopted calling upon the City Council, the Board of Aldermen and the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities to unite with us in protesting against the passage of the bill at this time, and to have its consideration postponed so that suitable plans might be evolved whereby this stupendous task, which we have undertaken successfully, our friends from Tidewater were thoroughly organized, and though the bill passed the Senate, it was decided by the committee of the House of Delegates having charge of it to postpone consideration until February, which all that we had the object of our thanks are due Hon. George Wayne Anderson, of the Senate, and Hon. Samuel L. Kelley, of the House of Delegates of Virginia, to the committee from the Chamber, and the bodies named for their untiring zeal and energy, but the object of the resolution adopted at our meeting.

We wish to assert in the most positive terms that this is not a fight of Richmond versus Norfolk; on the contrary, we commend the activity of our neighbors, and just such energy as was displayed in carrying out the must produce eventually the best results.

But we do say that this undertaking is too large in its scope and its possibilities to be rushed through without having the most searching and careful consideration. It will require right now, more than at any other time, the wisdom and the wisest and best counsel of conservative men. Above all, do not let any jealous feelings be engendered at its inception, which will mar, or perhaps destroy, our chances for success. No, the subject is a noble one, and as our ideal we should have held high.

We must present a solid front, and then only can we hope to stand before the people of the State and show them the marvelous changes which time has wrought. The citizens of this State are linked together by ties which cannot be severed, and we must all sympathize in each other's misfortunes, and in this mammoth undertaking all the people of the State should be governed by one ambition, and that is who can best work and how we can best agree.

We shall be able to surmount the greatest difficulties and make the celebration in 1907 an unparalleled success.

THE HOTEL "JEFFERSON."

Amidst the numerous evidences of our material progress, as shown on every side, it is sad to record the fact that this beautiful structure, which has been the scene of several disastrous fires, and of which, however, caused the great loss entailed by that of the Hotel Jefferson, which occurred on March 29th. This magnificent structure, erected a few years ago by our late fellow-citizens, Major Lewis Ginter and his family, has been a great loss to the city, and it is a pity that it should have been destroyed. It was a fine building, and it was a pity that it should have been destroyed. It was a fine building, and it was a pity that it should have been destroyed.

In my humble judgment, good hotels do more to attract foreign capital to a city than anything else, because the investor, if he is able to secure good accommodations, will stop long enough to see what the city has to offer, and then he will conclude to remain if surroundings are congenial. Our Committee on Conventions, which had done such good work during 1900, had to suspend its labors because our hotels could not take care of the large bodies that gathered at such times. The Chamber has been very sympathetic, and assured it of any aid that we could render. We congratulate the citizens of Richmond that we are assured that the "Jefferson" will before long be ready to receive its original guests, and in addition to which we have already Murphy's enlarged hotel, while two other commodious hotels will be erected during this year, so that we shall be prepared to accommodate all the people who may come here with delightful quarters. I believe that the city has a great future, and that the city is growing.

JACKSONVILLE SUFFERERS.

During the past year another of our sister cities in the South met with a great calamity. A large hotel, the Hotel Jacksonville, was destroyed by fire on May 3d. The Chamber at once wired its sympathy and proffered its aid. The necessity for help being made known to us, we immediately appointed committees who worked nobly, and the city was among the first to offer aid, and offered \$25,000 by sending the steamer "The Jackson" to Jacksonville.

This report has exceeded the limits assigned.

disappointed by me when its preparation was commenced, but in reviewing the past twelve months I found myself, so to speak, confronted with an embarrassment of riches, and I was at a loss to decide what to exclude from a record so replete with gratifying achievements.

I beg to direct your attention to a subject which I hope and believe appeals to us all most strongly, or otherwise we should not be present here this evening.

THE AFFAIRS OF THE CHAMBER.

At our last annual meeting I reported the progress of our work, and the membership of the Chamber up to 625, and expressed the hope that with your assistance we might secure 1,000 members. I sincerely regret that through no lack of effort, it has been impossible to recruit our strength, and I can only regret about 375. I beg to direct your attention to a subject which I hope and believe appeals to us all most strongly, or otherwise we should not be present here this evening.

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